

I claim:

1 1. A method of operating a spinning device
2 having a multiplicity of apertures through which a
3 molten plastic can emerge, said method comprising the
4 steps of:

5 (a) closing dirt-contaminated or clogged
6 spinning apertures of said spinning device with plugs
7 consisting at least in part of at least one oxidizable
8 substance which, upon oxidative decomposition, enables
9 removal of the plugs;

10 (b) subjecting at least a portion of said
11 device containing said apertures and said plugs to a
12 pyrolysis treatment for breakdown of residual plastic
13 on said portion of said device; and

14 (c) subjecting said portion of said device to
15 an oxidative treatment to effect oxidation of said
16 substance and destruction of said plugs.

1 2. The method defined in claim 1 wherein said
2 plugs consist of graphite and the oxidizable substance.

1 3. The method defined in claim 2 wherein said
2 oxidizable substance consists at least in part of
3 amorphous carbon.

1 4. The method defined in claim 3 wherein the
2 pyrolysis treatment in step (b) is carried out at a
3 subatmospheric pressure.

1 5. The method defined in claim 4 wherein the
2 pyrolysis treatment in step (b) is carried out under
3 inert conditions.

1 6. The method defined in claim 5 wherein the
2 oxidative treatment in step (c) is carried out at a

3 temperature above 100°C in the presence of at least one
4 oxidizing medium.

1 7. The method defined in claim 6 wherein the
2 oxidative treatment is carried out at a temperature
3 above 150°C.

1 8. The method defined in claim 7 wherein said
2 oxidative treatment is carried out at a temperature
3 between 200°C and 600°C.

1 9. The method defined in claim 8 wherein the
2 oxidative treatment is carried out at a temperature of
3 250°C to 550°C.

1 10. The method defined in claim 9 wherein the
2 oxidative treatment is carried out at a temperature of
3 350°C to 500°C.

1 11. The method defined in claim 10 wherein the
2 oxidizing medium is air or pure oxygen.

1 12. The method defined in claim 11 wherein the
2 oxidative treatment is carried out at a reduced
3 pressure.

1 13. The method defined in claim 12 wherein
2 said portion is cleaned following at least one of said
3 treatments in an ultrasound bath.

1 14. The method defined in claim 13 wherein
2 said portion is cleaned following at least one of said
3 treatments with a high-pressure cleaner.

1 15. The method defined in claim 1 wherein said
2 oxidizable substance consists at least in part of
3 amorphous carbon.

1 16. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the
2 pyrolysis treatment in step (b) is carried out at a
3 subatmospheric pressure.

1 17. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the
2 pyrolysis treatment in step (b) is carried out under
3 inert conditions.

1 18. The method defined in claim 1 wherein the
2 oxidative treatment in step (c) is carried out at a
3 temperature between 350°C to 500°C in the presence of
4 at least one oxidizing medium selected from the group
5 which consists of air, oxygen-enriched air and pure
6 oxygen.

1 19. The method defined in claim 1 wherein said
2 portion is cleaned following at least one of said
3 treatments in an ultrasound bath.

1 20. The method defined in claim 1 wherein said
2 portion is cleaned following at least one of said
3 treatments with a high-pressure cleaner.